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27 August 1954

ED

Copy No.

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 18
NO CHANGE IN CLASS X
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 7 Jan 80 REVIEWER: _____

Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

State Department review completed

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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A001700080001-4

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2. Ely says Mendes-France will give unqualified support to Vietnam:

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[REDACTED] French commissioner general Ely, who had just returned to Saigon from Paris, told Ambassador Heath on 24 August that at first, Premier Mendes-France seemed disposed to adopt a "special policy" toward the Viet Minh, but finally gave him "unqualified assurance" of support for Vietnam.

Mendes-France allegedly also agreed that it had been a mistake to give Jean Sainteny the title of "delegate general to North Vietnam." Instructions drafted since Sainteny's appointment restrict his activities to consular functions.

Comment: The French have little regard for the ability of the Diem government to marshal Vietnamese nationalist support, and it is unlikely that they will reduce efforts to maintain contact with the Viet Minh, particularly if they expect Viet Minh influence to increase in the south.

SOUTH ASIA

3. Pakistani Foreign Ministry uncertain regarding SEAP role:

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[REDACTED] The Pakistani Foreign Ministry is apparently uncertain regarding the attitude Pakistan should take toward a South-east Asian pact, according to the American embassy in Karachi.

Acting Foreign Secretary Hilaly has expressed the fear that, by joining SEAP, Pakistan may be isolated from the other Colombo powers and thus unable to influence them. He believes Ceylon is already in the neutralist camp.

Comment: Hilaly's remarks do not necessarily reflect fears of top policy makers regarding SEAP.

Pakistan's influence with the other Colombo powers has never been great. As a SEAP participant, however,

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Karachi could serve as a link between the West's allies and Ceylon and Burma, the two Colombo powers which have refused to join SEAP but indicated sympathy with its objectives.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. Jordan alarmed over Israeli mobilization:



Israel's large-scale mobilization is causing deep concern in Jordan, according to the senior British officer in the Arab Legion headquarters. He states that mobilization of the Legion and the National Guard is under consideration so that Jordan will not be caught unprepared if the Israeli mobilization should be in preparation for an attack.

General Glubb, head of the Legion, has informed the British Foreign Office that Jordan believes Israel can succeed in almost any act of aggression unless there is effective intervention by Britain or other Western powers.

Comment: Israel is in the midst of its annual military maneuvers, of which the present mobilization may be part. Israeli forces may undertake minor border actions during the maneuvers, but they are unlikely to initiate a large-scale attack.

5. American ambassador sees American-Saudi relations improving:



Ambassador Wadsworth in Jidda believes the recent unfavorable trend in relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia has been reversed.

He reports that on 24 August King Saud had a cordial discussion with him on American-Saudi relations, and also with an ARAMCO official on the Onassis tanker agreement. Saud apparently wants to "get out from under" that arrangement.



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Comment: During King Saud's first year as monarch he has revealed traits and ambitions that still leave in doubt his willingness and ability to help put American-Saudi relations on a firm basis. He has rejected an American arms aid agreement, canceled a Point IV program and consummated the Onassis agreement in violation of the ARAMCO concession.

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WESTERN EUROPE

7. Italians and British distrust Mendes-France:

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The under secretary of the Italian Foreign Ministry believes that French premier Mendes-France, despite his lip-service to the need for Western solidarity and German rearmament, is actually opposed to these objectives. The under secretary is convinced that Mendes-France went to the Brussels talks determined to assure the destruction of EDC.

According to the American embassy in London, the British evidently do not trust Mendes-France. Churchill, in his talk with Mendes-France on 23 August, strongly urged EDC ratification as the best means of obtaining an early West German contribution to the Western defense.

Comment: Mendes-France's switch from support of EDC to public opposition calls for caution regarding his professed desire for early German rearmament. Growing distrust of his sincerity among France's EDC partners can be expected to strengthen their belief that Mendes-France has wilfully misinterpreted the British attitude as adverse to EDC and early German rearmament.

Pro-EDC elements in France still seem unable to mount a vigorous defense of EDC. The American embassy in Paris estimated on 25 August that the treaty would be defeated in the national assembly by nearly 60 votes if the premier did not defend it.

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